

THE  
History  
OF  
Lewis de Marchmont,  
OR  
WONDERFUL EVENTS.

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"These are thy glorious works, Parent of good!  
Almighty! thine this universal frame,  
Thus wondrous fair! thyself, how wondrous seen!  
Unspeaking! who hast it above these heav'n  
To us invisible, or dimly seen."

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THE HISTORY

OF

*Lewis de Marchmont,*

OR

WONDERFUL EVENTS.

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**L**EWIS de Marchmont, Count of Marmande, descended in a lineal descent from the family of the same name: he had just attained his fourteenth year, when he was sent for to witness his father's death. He seated himself by the bed-side, the Count pressed his hand with fervency to his lips, which were already clammy with the dew of death. 'My amiable Lewis, said he, 'you see me now approaching my expiring moments; the sting of

cruel death has taken fast hold of me. Yes, my son, soon will my soul leave this vain clay, in hopes to soar into the presence of its glorious Creator, whom I am now impatient to see ; and there I hope to enjoy the society of thy angelic mother. Oh ! Julia, dear injured excellence ! soon will thy sainted shade be appeased ; and while thy enemies are levelled with the dust, thou wilt enjoy the smiles of an ever glorious Messiah.'

A smile of resignation sat on the features of the dying Count, while he drew from his breast a small miniature, which he presented to his son. The young Count started with horror, it being the picture of their mortal enemy, the Duke of Rochel. ' Attend, my son, to the last words I shall ever utter ;—you know the representative of this picture was our deadly enemy, who, by a long train of successful villanies estranged the favour of our Sovereign from the De Marchments. But now, my son, let all animosity be buried in oblivion ; altho' my dear Lewis, I would wish you to forgive, yet

I have one request to make. ‘Kneel, said he, my son, in a tremulous voice, before the holy crucifix, and swear that you will never be united to any of the family of the Rochels.’ The words were just going to be articulated by the youth, when, in an awful and solemn voice, something pronounced—*Swear not.* The youth was transfixed with horror, a cold sweat bedewed his face, and he sunk motionless to the ground;—on recovering he found himself seated by his father. Swear, continued the Count, nor let such nonsense (which I presume only proceeded from one of my vassals in the interest of the Duke of Rochel) prevent my dying in peace. The youth, with reluctance, obeyed. A smile of serenity rested on the face of the venerable father, who just articulated the name of his dear Julia, when resigning his breath into the hands of his glorious Redeemer.

A pensiveness rested on the countenance of the tender youth, for a considerable length of time, who frequently exclaimed, He is gone! He is no more!



Irrevocably gone! But gone to see my dear affectionate mother, and meet his long wished for Saviour in the ever blissful realms above.

The titles descended to his son, and the major part of his estates devolved to him; the remainder he bequeathed to his brother.

Soon after, the funeral rites were pompously performed, which happened in the year 1793. The rebellion began to foment. Lewis's family being always distinguished for their fidelity to their sovereign, he justly conjectured that he and his uncle, who were the only survivors of the ancient family of the Marchmonts, would be the first sacrifice to the Republicans; in consequence of which he secured as much money as possible, left France, and embarked for Trivento in Naples, in which place he safely landed, and afterwards dreamed a very awful and singular dream, that the ghost of his father appeared before him, and conducted him into a strange country, took him to some ruinous buildings,

and just pointing to a lady, pronounced in an awful and solemn voice—*Thy mother!*—and disappeared.

He awoke full of horror, doubting in his mind whether in reality it was his father's shade, or a dream. He was revolving over this singular occurrence, when he was interrupted by his father's steward (who was now his faithful follower), who proceeded to inform him, that accidentally going in late over night to a coffee house, he heard a gentleman repeat, who was in discourse with another, that the French Republicans at the instigation of the Duke of Rochel had offered a large reward for the apprehension of Lewis, Count of Marmande, and that it was suspected that he was then somewhere in Naples. I eagerly drank my wine, continued he, in order to impart to you this disagreeable news; but owing to the darkness of the night, I lost my way, and it was several hours before I could gain the right street.

He thanked the steward for his fidelity, and hastily secured what property he could, and with him embarked on board an American vessel.

For the first three weeks they had a tolerable fair wind, but afterwards it suddenly shifted. The thunder rolled and echoed with awful solemnity, the horrible and vivid flashes of lightening threatened momentary destruction to the shattered vessel, which mounted considerably towards the clouds. All was anarchy and confusion. The sailors made application to their liquors, and nothing but intoxication prevailed. At the dawn of the morning, the storm abated, and the first thing that they observed was a vessel bearing down upon them, which, to compleat their misfortune, proved to be a Tripelopian pirate bound for that port, where it arrived in three days.

The unfortunate Lewis, with the steward and the rest of the prisoners, was conducted to the Bazer. They were both purchased by the Alicade, who



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paid more than ordinary respect to our young hero on account of the gentleness of his manners and sweetness of his disposition. He was employed in the garden to look after the flowers, and the steward was to work in the field adjoining the house.

On the third day after their arrival, there was a grand festival kept in commemoration of a battle gained that day two years over the Araibs. It happened that Lewis was watering some flowers in that part of the garden which was near to a room where a great concourse of gentlemen were assembled, he heard the sound of a voice which appeared familiar to his ears, and listening more attentively, endeavoured to recall to his memory who it could be, but in vain; and when night came, he retired to his bed of rushes, pondering upon so strange a circumstance. He contrived to work several days under the same window, in order to learn, if possible, who this identical person was, but could not gain the least information;

however he was one morning suddenly awakened by a person who pulled him rather roughly by the arm, and looking up perceived it was the servant of the Alicade, who bid him rise and follow him without delay.

After being conveyed through several streets, he was conducted into the inner court of a magnificent palace. 'Stay here, Signior,' said his conductor, 'till I return.' Immediately upon this he heard a voice similar to that he before heard in the garden. A violent trembling now agitated him, recollection forcibly returned, and he knew the voice to be no other than that of his uncle, who clasped him to his heart with parental fondness. 'Oh! Father of Mercies,' exclaimed the wretched Uncle, 'what heavy curse awaits the steps of the family of the De Marchments, that the divine vengeance should even trace their unfortunate offsprings.'

After Lewis had taken some refreshment, he requested the favour of his Uncle to impart to him by what event

he came to reside in that part of the globe. A tear trembled in the eyes of the venerable gentleman, which he hastily brushed off. ‘ Pardon this weakness, my dear nephew,’ resumed he, ‘ but the sad recollection of past scenes too often intrudes, and our imagination dwells on scenes never to be retraced; nor will sorrow ever be obliterated from this bosom, till death erases the vital spark of my existence: then the smiles of an eternal father, will more than recompence me for the troubles I have surmounted in this probationary wilderness.

‘ After the death of your honoured father,’ continued he, ‘ and I had received the fortune he bequeathed me, I made Paris my residence, and perceived the detestable Duke of Rochel one evening in the playhouse. At the sight of a person he had so much injured, a deadly paleness overspread his face, and darting at me a furious glance, abruptly left the theatre. On this account the following morning I



left Paris, and observed for several leagues I was pursued by a number of ill-looking men. I began to be excessively alarmed, but could not conjecture their intentions, and having but few attendants with me, and those but slightly armed, excited in me more timidity than I otherwise should have had. A contest now ensued between my servants and them which terminated in the death of two of the former, and myself being bound and hoodwinked. I perceived by the motion of the horse that we were going at a very fast rate. After alighting, I found I was descending a flight of steps: the bandage was taken from my eyes by one of the men, and instantaneously discovered to my view a dreadful dark dungeon. 'So, Marchmont,' uttered a furious voice (which echoed through the cell, which I knew to be the Duke's, though by the distance from me I could not perceive him), 'I have got you in my power at last, and out of these walls you will not stir with your existence. Your portion of bread

water, and fruit, will be conveyed to you from the upper room, through the ceiling, in a basket. He then departed with his attendants, and the door was closed after him, while the heavy grating of the bars struck horror to my soul.

I thought I heard a sigh ; I listened attentively ; the sigh was again repeated. A flash of lightening, which at that instant gleamed through an aperture of the wall, discovered to my sight a human Corpse ; while a voice repeated, Oh ! Great God of Heaven, when will it please thee to call my spirit to itself, and let me join my dear Marchmont ? This name vibrated through every nerve. I exclaimed, ' Ah ! merciful God ! what is there still one friend of the Marchmonts existing ? ' ' yes,' replied the voice, which now approached nearer to me, ' and if you have courage to descend a flight of steps, and turn to the right, it will lead you to liberty.' ' May I presume, said I, ' to inquire if you could not facilitate your own escape, or if I could be any instrument in procuring it.' ' The latter part

of my life has been such a continual scene of sorrow,' she replied, 'and the place becoming now habitual to me, that I have not a wish to leave this Dungeon, as I doubt not but my few relations have long since quitted this keen world.'

I then thanked my deliverer, descended the steps, and in less than three hours found myself in a forest; and perceiving where I was, soon gained a seaport; and, being credibly informed that you had embarked for Prevento in Naples, was determined to proceed after you; but my designs were then frustrated: for on the third day of my voyage, I was taken by a corsair, and carried into Tripoli, where the master of the ship presented me to the Dey, who in a short time was so extremely pleased with me, that he gave me a commission in the army; when, distinguishing myself against the Arabs, was shortly promoted to the highest honours in the state.

Lewis thanked his uncle for the rela-



tion of his narrative, and expressed himself extremely happy in the information of his good success. He then gave him a brief history of his own adventures. His Uncle gave a great ransom for him, and the Steward, after staying some time with him, and not entertaining a wish to reside in that country, took an affectionate leave of his Uncle ; and they both thanked him for his kindness, were fitted out, and embarked on board a vessel for Sicily.

The wind, which was at first very favorable, suddenly veered about, and the pilot foretold an approaching storm ; and his prognostication proved true, all hands were now called to the pump, but in vain ; and the vessel was dashed against the North side of the island of Cyprus, and immediately bulged.

On investigating the place, they found themselves on a sandy desert. On looking round, they perceived there had been a village ; yet now in ruins, and full of caverns. Every joint of Lewis trembled, his heart recoiled, and his

dream rushed upon his memory with redoubled horror.

On descending, a flight of steps, they explored a cavern, and were very much alarmed at hearing a lamentable tone of voice; they ventured to approach, and then found it was a female, praying with great devotion; and after she had ended, Lewis perceived a small door, at which he knocked. A voice answered, who is there? The Count informed her by what means they found themselves in that desert; and they all waited with impatience to be acquainted with her distress, and urging the same, she informed them, that she was confined there by the cruel Duke of Rochel, merely on account that she would not sacrifice her virtue; was the lawful wife of Count de Marchmont, and was informed that he was no more. 'How is that possible,' replied Lewis, trembling with horror and amazement, 'for the Countess de Merchmont was absolutely my own mother, and she has departed this life a great number years; and Lewis, my,

Father, informed me in his dying moments,' continued he, 'that he hoped soon to enjoy the company of my blessed mother, in the heavenly Jerusalem above. Therefore, added Lewis, perhaps you only assumed that title; but, bursting into a flood of tears, she endeavoured to convince him, that she was his real mother, and that the report of her decease was entirely fabulous.

The surprise on both sides was indescribably great; so much, that it prevented for some time, further articulation. On recovery, she informed him, that she shortly expected a man, who every four and twenty hours, brought her a small pittance, which barely supported a wretched existence. Lewis, with the Steward and the rest of them, proposed to secrete themselves till the man came to unlock the door, and then to seize him immediately. Accordingly he soon afterwards appeared, and they did as proposed; by which means, Lewis, with the help of his companions, rescued his mother, who was worn nearly



to an anatomy, and confined him in the prison, from which the countess was released.

Lewis, at the first sight, knew it to be his Mother, ran to cling round her neck, and affectionately embraced her. With what fervency did she distinguish her motherly affection, and ardently pressed her lips to his! tears of joy streamed with excess from their eyes, which prevented farther articulation for a considerable space of time. On recovery, they could with difficulty persuade themselves but what it was a dream.

He then took his mother to the capital of the country, attended by the steward, declared he would guard her to the latest moment of his life. The countess informed them, while on their excursion, of the extraordinary event, which undoubtedly must appear extremely mysterious before the circumstance was fully disclosed.

You must understand, my dear son, resumed the countess, that in the war

between Lewis and the emperor of Germany, your father, the Count de Marchmont, who was then a General, received orders from Paris to join the regiment.

After the expiration of two years, the young duke, who at that time was a Colonel, came to reside in a castle near our Chateau, and from that hour to this, I have never known an hour's peace. For the space of half a year, I was obliged to hear his detested passion: it is well, madam, said he, one day rising in a haughty manner; the Duke of Rochel can adopt more methods than one towards a woman that refuses to make him happy. Shortly afterwards I was seized, bound, and put on board a vessel, and conveyed to the place where you happily found me. For the first four years of my confinement, the Duke offered me liberty, on condition that I would sacrifice my virtue; but resisting every persuasion on that head, and finding all imaginable artifices fruitless, discontinued the en-

treaties of his base designs with great reluctance, and I have never heard more of him since. One of the Duke's servants dying the time your father was in the wars, the Duke had reported that the Countess de Marchmont had died suddenly of a putrid fever, which entirely prevented the servants going near her, for fear of catching the disorder; so that at the time of my being taken away by the Duke, the servant, who had departed this life but a little before, was interred in our family vault, by which means, every individual perfectly convinced themselves of my decease from that period.'

Thus concluded the strange adventure, which Lewis paid great attention to. He took a private oath, to be the death of the Duke the first opportunity that offered.

After stopping a few days in the capital, they embarked for Italy, and continued their journey to Rome, where they safely arrived, and accidentally



met with their particular intimate, the Count of Hainault, who they learnt, had left France for the same motive that Lewis had. The Count expressed great joy at the sight of them, and a great desire, that they would accompany him to his house, which they accepted.

It was delightfully situated in a fine valley a few leagues distant from Rome, on the borders of the Tibre, in the midst of which runs a small river, fed from the springs that issued from the mountains environing it, and refreshes that sweet spot of earth, in such a manner, that it appears an entire garden; variety of beautiful flowers enamel the ground, and charm the eye: it is not only adorned with every charm that can delight the sense, but is also strongly fortified by the Tibre on the one side, which it overlooks, and by the thickness of the walls on the other: the cares of the lords who have for centuries past neglected nothing that have rendered it

commodious and magnificent. The paintings are excellent; the furniture rich, the gardens delicious and embellished with statues and fountains; in a word, nature, seconded by art, has made it all that the luxurious wish can form in this retreat.

The Count of Hainault was possessed of a daughter, that had not only the promising expectations of beauty in her person, but ready attainment of different qualifications highly proper to adorn her sex and rank.

They passed away a few weeks excessively agreeable in this charming place; the charms of the young lady had attracted Lewis's attention so much, that she appeared to him infinitely above any other of her sex; but his young heart was sensible of a passion for her, long before he was of an age capable of distinguishing by what application to call it. She was nearly of the same age, and felt emotions little different from his; but as at that time the innocence

of their age rendered them unacquainted from what motive the pleasure they took in entertaining each other originated, so did it also hinder them from concealing it. The mutual joy, however, that sparkled in the eyes of both, and the melancholy gloom with which they were overcast at parting (when Lewis left Paris), let others into the secret they were then ignorant of themselves.

Count Hainault had promised Isabella nearly from her infancy that she should be the wife of Lewis as soon as they had attained the age of maturity; the young Count and Isabella had both retained the promise in their memory, and communicating the same to each other, and then judging themselves arrived at a sufficient age, resolved in themselves shortly to link their friendships more closely by marriage. Their parents judging them yet rather too young to enter into the nuptial state, entreated they would postpone



it for two years longer, at the expiration of which time, they would freely give their blessing and consent, and hoped no obstacle would intervene to prevent the accomplishment.

The Countess de Marchmont and her son communicated their past adventures to the Count of Hainault, who paid all possible attention to the same, but appeared extremely affected, but well entertained with the account. He entreated they would give him the pleasure of their company a fortnight longer, in order that they might visit the grand city and view its antiquities. They infinitely obliged him by accepting the offer, and the young lady appeared highly delighted at the proposal.

On passing the Corsà street in the city of Rome, they promiscuously met Lewis's Uncle, who had been in search of them for some time; he informed them that he had sold his commission, and was possessed of an immense fortune, and his wish was to continue with them

through life. They expressed great joy at meeting. He then suddenly turned round, & looked with profound astonishment. Who is that I see, said he, 'which represents a model so strongly to my view, in resemblance to that of my dear departed sister? Is not that the shade,' resumed he, 'of thy dear affectionate mother' (looking stedfastly at Lewis), 'or am I dreaming? He explained the mystery to his uncle, who continued in wonderful amazement, and embracing his sister with fervent affection, exclaimed, 'this has now completed all my happiness, and fully compensates me for every trial I have sustained through life's dreary path.

After they had viewed the Antiquities, Count Hainault insisted that he should accompany them back, which invitation he politely accepted, and the Countess embraced the first opportunity of relating her direful story to her brother who listened to it with attention. When she came to that part of the story in which she liberated a man, he

was greatly surprised, recollecting the circumstance, that he was the identical person.

Count Hainault paid all of them great respect, and at the expiration of a fortnight, they parted with their good friend with great reluctance, with a promise to return in two years to be present at the celebration of the marriage of Lewis and his amiable daughter, who parted from each other with the greatest regret imaginable.

They then went to reside at Abenavenche in Switzerland. Lewis drew his money at his bankers at Bern, he then purchased an elegant house, and shortly afterwards they heard that the Duke was in that country. Remorse of conscience now rekindled for having treated the family so unworthily, made his breast a perfect chaos of confusion; he reproached himself in the severest manner, his past conduct now appeared in its blackest colours, terrible repentance ensued from his wrongs, and made him a monster to himself; all at once assailed him and put him in a condition truly



pitiable. He stood amazed, there was a possibility for him to have abused patience and sweetness such as the Countess's, who was the most lovely and most virtuous of all women on earth.

While he was employed in these meditations he met with the countess and her son by mere accident, as they were taking a walk; they all started with horror and amazement at the sudden sight of each other; but he had been informed of the escape of the mother. Tears burst with excess from the Duke's eyes, and sighing deeply, fell at the feet of the countess beseeching pardon in a lamentable tone of voice. 'Do not, replied he, be alarmed at my tears, they are occasioned by the reflection of the injury I have done to the most amiable of all women that ever existed; for which I now sincerely regret, and shall always retain my villainy in remembrance, to the latest period of my life. Do not, added he, judge mankind in general by my cruelty, and think me an example of the baseness of my sex; for

for one vile man condemn not those who are incapable of retaining in their hearts such base villainy as have lurked in the breast of Rochel.'

The touching manner in which he repeated these words would have softened an heart of adamant. The sentiments so truly noble and so rare, entirely brought back all the former perfections of his grace. The countess appeared extremely affected, and in a faint tone of voice, and with the softest accents of tenderness, took him by the hand, and intreated him to rise: told him his pardon was granted, with a promise to obliterate from her memory, if possible, all his former base designs and cruelty.

Politely bowing, he returned his warmest thanks for the honour she had done him by the condescension of conferring his pardon; but at the same time, absolutely declared by all the powers above, he could never repay the wrongs he had done to the Marchmont family in general. particularly by the object to whom he was ardently at-

tached ; ' neither was it in the power,'  
 he added, ' of mortal man to remove that  
 stability.' He likewise with all the  
 submissivness imaginable, fell on his  
 knees to Lewis, entreating his pardon.  
 He demanded him immediately to rise,  
 told him it was granted, but could never  
 blot from his remembrance to the latest  
 period of his life, his base intentions  
 to his amiable and honoured mother,  
 ' I must frankly inform your grace,' con-  
 tinued Lewis, ' although you were al-  
 ways a mortal enemy to the Marchmont  
 family, I could erase the whole of that,  
 was it not for the imprisonment of  
 the countess, and your presumption  
 to make attempts on the virtuous  
 cent ; and at the same time, what  
 was more inexcusable, and must make  
 you more conscious of your guilt, re-  
 sumed he, my honoured father was then  
 surviving, when you first presumed to gra-  
 tify your infamous base designs : I appeal  
 to all the saints, to mankind in general,  
 and likewise to the strings of your own con-  
 science, if you are not worthy of reproach,



and to bear the appellation of a monster: I must likewise inform your grace, that I had taken a private oath to assassinate you the first opportunity

The Duke paid great attention to the words of Lewis, and when he ended, he resumed his discourse. 'Sir,' said he, 'by what services can I atone for the black crimes I have been guilty of: I wish to God it was in my power, with what zeal would I endeavour to accomplish it; but I can make no other atonement than an union, and by obtaining an alliance in the families: I should thereby be enabled to devote my whole life to the service of the countess and her family. Yes, continued he, 'I solemnly protest I would make a sacrifice of my life, and would give up every thing at command with infinite resignation: time alone would convince mankind of my fidelity, and the regard I have entertained for the amiable Countess.'

Lewis had hardly patience to keep

silent. "You have made," continued  
 Lewis, "all the atonement we require,  
 by submitting yourself to request par-  
 don; I am astonished," added Lewis,  
 "that your Grace should entertain the  
 least idea to aspire to become the hus-  
 band of my mother. The Countess  
 begged pardon for interrupting their  
 discourse, and intreated him never to think  
 of any other alliance than that of friend-  
 ship; otherwise he might depend on it,  
 that it would not avail him any thing.  
 He demanded a direction to their  
 present residence; this being granted,  
 he politely bowed and took his leave;  
 his face changed, and he appeared  
 quite ghastly; his soul at last grew  
 more and more perplexed; The coun-  
 tess's image was so deeply impressed  
 and imprinted in his heart, that she al-  
 ways appeared before his eyes: He  
 gave every moment a tribute of a sigh  
 for her, she occupied every momen-  
 tary thought. Secret grief began to prey  
 upon his health and rendered his body  
 languid, as his mind was torn with the most

eruel remorse, and persecuted him with the Idea, that the Countess would not honour him by attending him to the temple of Hymen; that he gave himself up to despair, and was seriously indisposed, and his life became quite burdensome.

The Duke, however, presented his respects to the Countess, entreating the favour of an interview. She accordingly obeyed the injunction, and went attended by her son. How different from her expectations did they now find him! He was leaning on a table with one arm, which supported his head, while the other held a handkerchief before his eyes, his face all covered with tears, and appeared abandoned to the utmost excess of grief.

A spectacle so extraordinary, pierced the tender breast of the Countess to the heart: she entreated he would not give way to sorrow, as that, resumed she, will not avail any thing. ‘Coldness and indifference in return for the high regard I owe you,’ said he weeping, ‘is the occasion of my tears and indisposition;



bringing tidings of no effect on a mind like mine wholly taken up with love.

Your heart, dear Countess,' continued he, ' was all my pride, all my desire ; and not being able to attain that, the grave is my only wish.'

When he had finished this exclamation, he took his handkerchief from before his face, and looking on her with eyes, in which despair was visibly painted ; ' My dearest lady,' exclaimed he, ' though in the depth of misery, it affords me some ease and consolation to see you ; it is in you alone I hope for relief.

All he said was to no effect, and he had but little hope remaining ; however, the Countess being informed by the faculty that he would not survive many days, said but little, told him she would visit him again, and then took her leave ; but the next day he was afflicted with a violent fever, gave himself up entirely to prayer, was very much resigned to the will of his Maker, and departed this life, pronouncing incessantly

the name of the Countess de Marchmont. He left the following letter, which he wrote a few hours before his decease.

*To the Right Honourable and Virtuous  
the Countess de Marchmont.*

Were not my death inevitable, and at hand, I should not have the presumption to approach you with any testimonies of a passion which has not anything agreeable; but the condition I am now in authorizes my temerity, and you cannot refuse the dying Rochel (who will shortly be food for the worms, and soon forgotten), the consolation of giving him your last farewell, and telling you with what fervency he has loved you, and still retains the same affection as much as ever, in spite of all you have made him suffer; and that it is not in the power of that death which your cruelty inflicts on him, to erase your dear image, so deeply impressed on his heart.

I take not the pen in my hand, Oh!

lovely Countess, to reproach you: my respect surmounts your infidelity, and I accuse not your cruelty, so much as my own ill fate, which gives me not the qualities necessary to gain your heart. I yield without regret, leaving all my empty honours, pompous titles, and earthly mansions behind, in hopes to enjoy more divine happiness in the heavenly mansions above, and inspire my expanding soul with what it will hereafter taste, when all our earthly mansions and gorgeous palaces, and the great globe itself, and all that it inherits will be dissolved, and not a wreck left behind.

Oh! Heaven grant by his blessed will, that no obstacle may intervene in the course of your frail probation, to interpose and embitter your future sweets: no interest of my own can claim any part in this wish; therefore it must be considered as a motive of that friendship I have professed for your future welfare. The dictation is ascribed only to you and your repose; it is the ardor of that pas-



sion I have expressed for you. Alas! who can ever love you as Rochel has done? he lived not but for you, and died when he was convinced that he had no influence in your heart.

Adieu! most amiable, most angelic Countess! my strength is exhausted, but my affection for you still remains in its full vigour. I am speedily advancing towards the New Jerusalem, where I shall sing eternally the praises of God, and celebrate his divine excellence. You will see me no more; till, I hope, we shall meet in the regions above; which God of his infinite mercy grant; and I leave the world with this only hope that you will sometimes think of the Duke of Rochel.

This letter very much affected the Countess. On the opening of the will, it was found that the Duke had bequeathed the major part of his fortune to the Countess and her son, and one thousand to her brother. This convinced the world, that the Duke entertained a very great esteem for the Countess.

They all lived together extremely comfortable, and in the greatest harmony imaginable: two years had not then expired since they departed from their good friend Hainault, and his amiable daughter, before Lewis suddenly grew excessively melancholy: his mother and uncle were greatly concerned on the occasion. ‘I cannot conceive,’ said the Countess, ‘the meaning of this alteration in you, my dear; I hope Isabella continues to be faithful: you receive continual assurances of her esteem; you have nothing to disturb the tranquillity of your love, but an absence which will shortly terminate to your glory, and her content.’

Lewis made no immediate answer to these words; but after a long pause, which was often interrupted with sighs, ‘I wish,’ replied he, ‘the discontent you see in me, may be as groundless in reality as it is so in appearance to you; but, alas! there is something tells me we have stayed too long for both our happiness: In short, I tremble at

what I have heard, and am fearful her heart is interested in favour of another.' 'I should be loth to conjecture,' resumed the countess, 'she has changed her sentiments in regard to you; for,' continued she, 'the engagements made in our rank, cannot be so easily broken through as those among the vulgar; and I have too good an opinion of Isabella, to believe she would entertain any views to the prejudice of her promise, so firmly given, and so often and publicly repeated.'

Lewis observed, there were many entered into wedlock, before they attained his age; and lamented that he did not embrace the opportunity before he had put it in the power of any person to rival him. 'If the superior merits of my rival be of more force than the commands of a father in my favor, and my own repeated proofs of an inviolable fidelity; I shall submit to her decree without murmuring, though I cannot without dying.' It is not for persons at her age,' replied the countess, 'to be guided by their own



inclinations, which too often blind them in the choice of a husband; and it is their duty, wisdom, and indeed their interest, to have no wishes but such as are first formed by those who have the first disposing of them.'

You speak conformably to my inclinations, mother, replied Lewis; for my part, I should always wish to act in every circumstance in life, according to the will of my ancestors.

Lewis continued extremely uneasy, and with his mother's and uncle's consent, was resolved immediately to make an excursion to Count Hainault's, in order to search into this event. They coincided, and promised to accompany him. Accordingly, the next morning they proceeded on their journey, attended by their faithful steward.

On their arrival they were received with the greatest affability and kindness imaginable. Isabella took Lewis by the hand, and expressed herself overjoyed at the sight of him; but blushed prodigiously. There were some visitors, a

lady and her son; Isabella appeared vastly confused, which gave Lewis room to conjecture this was the young gentleman which was the occasion of their speedy visit, and, in the sequel of the story, so it happened: they had an invitation to dine there that identical day.

Dinner being placed on the table, Isabella was seated by Lewis. The strangers took every opportunity to fix their eyes on the young Count, without wishing to be perceived; yet their behaviour was very polite. They were no less persons than Lady Roussillion, and her son Lord Henry.

After dinner, the Countess hinted to Count Hainault, who sat close by her, that by Lewis's desire, they had made this visit, in order to recall to his memory the promise he had so long made, in regard to the alliance between her son and his daughter. The Count's countenance was perceived to change, and Lady Roussillion overhearing the Countess, begged pardon for the interruption, and said,

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It is true the Count informed me of the promise, but Isabella being so young at that time, and not capable of the least idea of matrimony; there is now a great probability of his changing his mind. They easily perceived to what end this discourse tended. The Count remained in profound silence, and looked wistfully at his daughter. 'I blush not,' replied Isabella, 'to confess I love Count de Marchmont; it is an affection which has grown up with me, almost from my infancy, authorized by the command of my honoured father, and by the constancy and repeated services of him, whom for a long series of years, I have regarded as my husband, long before I comprehended what it meant; and,' resumed she, 'it is very unbecoming for us to violate our promises. Honour and justice ought to be the guides of all sorts of people; how much more are they to be held sacred by us, whose actions serve as an example to all beneath us; and I must avow, that were it possible for me to estrange my



heart from him it has so long been accustomed to love, I never could be brought to break my faith, where it has been so solemnly given.

This courageous reply, touched her ladyship to the quick; she gave such uncommon proofs of the greatness of her understanding, considering her early age; the sun of merit so strongly displayed itself in every word and action, that she made a great impression on the hearts of as many as beheld her. Lord Henry replied, 'there is nothing in the divine Isabella's discourse, that is not too just to give offence to persons sensible of what love and honour enjoin: and, in spite of the despair it causes in me, obliges me to confess, I should think her less worthy the sublime passion I entertain for her, had she any sentiments different from those she has declared. 'I wish not,' said Lewis, 'Isabella should be constrained in her choice, though I can assure you, my lord, continued he, 'she made the first impression: on that account, she is the

only object of my choice ; all I ask, is to be permitted to adore her, and to be allowed so much time to testify my constancy, as may assure her, nothing is capable of changing it.' ' You shall have all that you think necessary,' said Count Hainault ; ' for I here declare, that if my daughter consents not to be your's, she never shall be Lord Henry's, till you approve she should be so.'

In pronouncing these words, he rose, and passing hastily to his study, left them at full liberty to praise her conduct, or to complain of it ; according as they were agitated by their different sentiments.

' To have the power of deferring our happiness,' said Isabella to Lewis, ' is, methinks, but a poor consolation for you, and consequently might prove more dangerous than you can conceive ; and the fresh marks of our fidelity would enhance the grief of Lord Henry, which would consequently hurt our feelings far beyond the power of words to describe.

The desponding rival had not the power of utterance; and Lewis throwing himself at that moment at her feet, thanked the charmer of his soul for the declaration she had made in his favour, in words so full of extacy, that it peared as if he had been doubtful of his happiness from that moment. Henry had his eyes fixed on them with so mournful an earnestness, that Count Hainault, when he entered, was touched with the most tender concern; and Lewis beheld him rather as a man dead than living, and upbraiding himself for having been the cause, by the unwary rapture to which he had given loose, took him by the hand, crying, 'my dear and generous rival, pardon a lover, who, in his excess of happiness, forgot every thing,'. 'It is easy for me to pardon your forgetfulness of me,' replied Henry, 'since I have forgot myself.'

'Cease then,' resumed Isabella, 'to persecute the cause of it; desist from seeing objects which never can but con-



tribute to despair; content yourself with knowing that I feel for you all that friendship can inspire; and as your virtue enables you to love your rival, let it also serve you to overcome a passion, so evidently destructive to your own peace, and so great an obstacle to the happiness of those who are dear to you.' 'A passion, Miss,' answered he, 'which owes its birth to you, is not so easily extinguished; that very virtue in you which destroys my hopes, inflames my wishes; and that which is in myself, serves but to make me more wretched, by teaching me how just it is to adore you. No, I can die; but never can I cease to love you.'

These words were accompanied with a gesture full of despair, which not being able to command, he went out of the room without permitting the Count to attend him even to the door: his mother followed him, and they immediately took their horses, and speedily rode away.

Both Isabella and the Count were sen-

sibly touched with his condition ; but as the misfortunes of a rival serve only to encrease the happiness of a lover beloved, how generous soever, Lewis could not grieve for those of Henry, any farther than he was compelled to do so, by the nobleness of his nature ; and his own joy soon surmounting all other considerations, he again indulged the transport of his soul, and passed the remainder of the day, in a satisfaction which he alone would be able to express.

The disconsolate Henry shortly afterwards paid them a visit ; but these tender lovers were so cautious in their behaviour in his presence, that he had nothing of, but his own ill fate, in compelling him to interrupt the happiness of those whom, could it have been purchased any other way, he would have given the best part of his blood.

He would frequently utter words to this effect ; which his proceedings leaving no room to doubt the truth of, made a very great impression on all who heard them. While they were seriously

discoursing, no less person than the Honourable Miss Roanoke, the only surviving daughter of Don Roanoke, was introduced into the drawing-room. She was a beautiful young lady, and particularly acquainted with Lord Henry, and the Hainault family : she begged pardon for the intrusion, and made a great number of compliments.

It appeared that this lady, by being so intimately acquainted, was no stranger to the proposed match, and paid this visit with an intent to introduce the subject ; and of all who knew the sad situation of Henry's heart, none was so sensibly affected with it as she was ; and she could not forbear avowing her concern to Isabella, saying, that she thought fate was extremely unjust to the merits of Lord Henry ; and that so many perfections as he was master of, ought to have entitled him rather to the utmost felicities, than to the misfortunes he had but too much reason to complain of. ' What does the ill fortune of Henry,' replied the Count, ' occasion in you more regret, than my



happiness gives pleasure? Would you, honourable Miss, buy his contentment at the price of my life? 'No, certainly,' cried she, 'and if I offer up any prayers for him, it is not for what would oppose your satisfaction.' 'But how is it possible,' again demanded he, 'that you should wish his happiness without desiring my ruin?' 'Very easily,' resumed she, with the most charming sprightliness, 'I wish that he might cease to love Isabella, and that his heart might be inspired with a passion for some other, who, by being unprepossessed, might know what is due to merit such as his.

She had no sooner spoken these words, than her whole face was tinged with a rosy hue, which Isabella perceiving, and a thousand things occurring that moment to her remembrance, testifying the concern this young beauty had expressed for the suffering of Henry, made her presently assured, that she took a greater interest in his fortune, than

possibly she herself was yet sensible of ; and looking earnestly at her : ‘ No person in the world,’ said she, ‘ is more capable to inspire him with such sentiments than yourself, my dear Miss ; and I am persuaded, that if he knew the least of yours, those he has for me would immediately vanish.

‘ Because I blush,’ replied Miss Roanoke smiling, ‘ you imagine presently, that you read in my heart things which are not there ; but I assure you, I am very far from feeling any part of that attachment I see between the Count and you ; however I do not believe you will blame me for confessing, that his uncommon merits have made me set a higher value on him than on any man I have yet seen.’ ‘ No,’ cried Lewis, ‘ and I should believe there was nothing wanting to my happiness, could I once behold you the object of his desires.

This was not the only conversation they had on this subject ; and the beautiful young lady being accustomed to hear her good friends wish she might

make an impression on Henry, became insensibly to wish it herself; and, in fine, to know that it was love, which she had till now taken only for esteem.

The day was fixed for the celebration of the marriage between Lewis and Issabella; but fate was preparing for them something very terrible. Miss Roanoke was prevailed on to pass a few days with them, and be present at the celebration of their nuptials.

Early in the ensuing morning, a gang of Robbers entered the house, which though well defended from them on the other side, was little fortified towards the Tiber, as apprehending no danger from that quarter; and this terrible band, which consisted of near twenty souls, easily forced their way into the outer court, where some of the servants being lodged, manacled them. All within the inner apartments were buried in the most profound sleep, when the noise the assailants made in entering waked them in a fright, which is not to be



described. They secured the gentlemen and ladies, and all the other domesticks; plundered every thing that was valuable; took the ladies prisoners; and with their booty made their way to the Tibre side, where their vessel laid, in which they embarked with the utmost expedition, nor were they a moment too soon in the dispatch of this villainous enterprize; a shepherd who was watching his flock on a high mountain, near the house, perceived at the approach of day-light, a vessel riding near the coast, but mistook it for a bark belonging to fishermen, till hearing a noise of forcing the gates, he suspected some part of the truth; on which he ran immediately to the house, and released them, informing them the cause of this intrusion.

Though it is impossible for them to comprehend the worst of this adventure, Count Hainault immediately had all his male domestics well armed, and the gentlemen having provided themselves with necessary arms, wasted not the time in unavailing complaint; but with the

men ran to the Tibre side with great precipitation, where they arrived the very moment those wretches had weighed anchor.

It was just light enough to behold the ladies on the deck, and Lewis, being near enough to have his voice heard, cried out to release the prisoners, and they should make their own terms for their ransom. But such an offer, though made in the present distraction of his soul, he could not expect to be received: they knew very well, that, if they had turned back, the ransom of their prisoners must have been a gibbet for themselves; and therefore gave no other answer than the discharge of their guns. Count Hainault was killed, and two of his men; Lewis's steward was wounded in the arm, and himself received a bullet in his shoulder which made him fall motionless, and to all appearance dead.

The cries which the ladies sent forth at this spectacle, would have touched any other hearts than those who now had the disposal of them; but those

barbarians were inflexible to all, and the winds favouring the prosperous mischief, so filled their sails, that they soon lost sight of them.

Perceiving there was no remedy for this misfortune, they bent their whole cares for the recovery of the two invalids; and having carried Lewis to the house, the surgeons who dressed his wound told them there was yet no certain judgment of it; but having recovered from the swoon he had long laid in, he fell into such violent transports of mingled grief and rage, as might have been able of themselves to have destroyed his life, without the assistance of so terrible a wound.

The steward was in a fair way of a speedy recovery, having been but slightly wounded.

Lewis's friend and rival quitted him neither night nor day, administering to him every thing he took with his own hand, and omitting nothing for the re-establishment both of his mind and body, that could be expected from the



most tender brother. Lewis found himself under such obligations to his zealous cares, that tho' he wished to die, he could not be so ungrateful as to attempt any thing which should render them fruitless; and when overcome by the violence of his despair, he would refuse those things which were necessary for the recovery of his health, 'You must live, my dear count,' said Lord Henry, 'you must live to deliver Isabella, and to receive the crown of your fidelity, by a happy marriage with her; and you must also live to acknowledge the endeavours of the unfortunate Henry.' 'You flatter me with hopes,' replied Lewis, with a languishing voice, 'which my reason will not permit me to entertain; but since my life is necessary to enable me to return some part of the favors you have conferred upon me, I consent to prolong a breath which brings no other advantage with it than obliging you.'

It was in this manner these generous rivals testified the mutual regard they had for each other; which by the

novelty of it, charmed and surprized all who were witnesses of it.

When he was pronounced out of danger, and enabled to walk, he frequently rambled on the melancholy beach; while the roaring of the water was truly congenial to his feelings.

It was late one evening, when he was reflecting on the melancholy events of his disastrous life, that, insensible to the time of night he unintentionally strayed a great way from home; when night had cast a sable veil over the face of creation, and nothing was heard but the shrill notes of the melancholy bittern, Lewis found himself in a track he had never entered before, and pausing, a light at that instant gleamed at a distance, and making towards it, found himself close to a cottage; and intreating admittance, was kindly received by the hospitable cottager, on whose furrowed checks, played a smile of benevolence, which seemed to say, that smiling hope and resignation were strongly intrenched in his heart.

The venerable cottager, who supplied Lewis's household with fish, proceeded to inform him, that, on returning home from a voyage, he perceived a vessel at anchor, on the Helm of which was written, in African characters, 'the Mahomet of Sennar,' and he made no doubt but what it was the same vessel that had seized the ladies, which he had so much lamented, 'as a circumstance which occurred last night,' continued he, 'confirms my opinion: going to my vessel, I observed something lie on the sand which reflected a brilliant light; impelled by curiosity, I hastened to the spot, and perceived a locket, the glass of which by the light of the moon, attracted my attention, and I perceived it was a picture of lady Isabella Hainault, (which I presume dropped from her at the time she was forced aboard the vessel), and my intention was to have brought it, continued he, presenting it to the Count, to you to-morrow morning.'

Lewis received the gift with rapture



and the amiable Cottager agreed to accompany him, for he could speak the African language with fluency.

Lewis returned to Lord Henry, and informed him of the news he had heard, who desired to accompany him in the search of the fugitives, and with the faithful fisherman, they embarked for Sennar, where after a short and pleasant voyage, they safely landed. Application was immediately made to the Alicade, who in the lapse of a short time, for an immense ransom, procured their liberty; and a vessel then arriving, bound for Rome, they embraced the opportunity of embarking.

It is infinitely more easy to conceive than describe the excess of their joy at meeting; Isabella lamented much the death of her father, which was news gradually broken open to her, and the rest of the ladies were also extremely concerned.

On their passage, the young gentleman requested the favor of them to relate in what manner the banditti behaved: all the ladies, except Miss

Roanoke, were so extremely indisposed, that they begged to be excused for the present: Miss R. obliged them by giving them a brief account of the same.

On the first day's sail with these wretches, we could with difficulty keep life in Isabella: she became subject to repeated faintings, and on recovering from her swoons, she frequently articulated the name of Lewis; then offering up her most fervent prayers, ardently intreating that they might reach the throne of grace in behalf of us and her dear departed Count, who she much feared was no more. 'We all endeavoured to persuade to her,' continued Miss R. 'that he was still existing; yet in reality we all judged the reverse.'

She frequently declared, that if he had departed this life, she had not a wish of ever returning back; but would willingly submit to end her days in bondage. With Lady Isabella's lamentations, the grief we felt on her account, and other melancholy prospects presen-

ted to our view, made us all miserable in the extreme; yet we all bore it with as much fortitude as could be expected.

All our griefs being so violent, that the wretches greatly feared death would deprive them of the sums they expected to get for the disposal of us; therefore they endeavoured by all the means they could to render our captivity less irksome, designing to expose us to sale as soon as possible after our arrival.

On landing, they immediately conveyed us to a house of confinement, where we were treated with unexpected hospitality; at which we formed an idea from what motive it proceeded: they judged by our air and deportment we were persons of quality; by which means, judging they should get a considerable ransom for us, treated us with more than usual respect, and never separated us; but placed us in a pleasant and commodious house, where there were servants to attend us: and gave strict orders that nothing but liberty should be refused us.



He was of a disposition more humane than the generality of his country, and was sensibly affected with our griefs; not only on account of fearing by our deaths, he should be deprived of the great sums he expected to receive; but he was possessed with greater humanity than is common with those of his country!

But it is more probable, this behaviour was excited less by good nature, than his own interest: He gave us permission to write to our friends, in order that we might have our freedom purchased, before we were exposed for public sale. We thanked him for the liberty he favoured us with, and immediately embraced the opportunity; but the letters could not possibly reach Rome, resumed Miss Roanoke, at the time you gentlemen left it, which made our surprize the greater at the welcome sight of those who are infinitely more dear to us than all the universe beside.

Lewis informed them, that if he had not found them, it would shortly have

terminated at the expence of his death: he then related to them, by what means he fortunately gained his intelligence, and presented the picture to his amiable Isabella, which she was extremely well pleased with, not only on the account of the value of it, but by reason it was a present made to her, by her honoured, dearly beloved, and much esteemed mother.

They were all excessively astonished at this surprizing narrative, which convinced them, there was nothing imaginable more wonderful in the works of providence, and consequently nothing more than he was able to perform. All the ladies professed themselves under the greatest obligations imaginable to the fisherman, at the same time assured him, that he should be well rewarded, as soon as they landed, infinitely beyond his expectations: at which he expressed himself extremely well pleased; and told them, that if they gave him nothing, the pleasure it gave him in the idea that he should have it in his power to

be the instrument of making them perfectly happy, was a sufficient reward of itself.

Owing to contrary winds, their voyage was considerably prolonged, but they entertained each other with a relation of past occurrences, and enlarged on their future happiness; wishing for the happy day to arrive which would more firmly unite them, and more fully compensate them for all the trials they had sustained in this transitory universe.

After a long and tedious voyage, they safely landed. On their arrival, the steward and the rest of their good friends, who shewed every conceivable mark of their friendship, by their congratulations on their safe return; thrice welcomed them to their happy dwellings.

There now remained nothing to complete the happiness of these four illustrious lovers, Lord Henry and the Honourable Miss Roanoke, Count de Marchmont and Lady Isabella Hainault, but the nuptial ceremonies; which being



agreed by all parties and preparations made for the same, were in a short time with solemnity performed in one day.

The weddings were kept with festivity, at the house of the deceased Count; whose amiable daughter lady Isabella, by being an Heiress, was possessed with an immense patrimony; and every individual, who had the honour of being acquainted with this amiable and respectable lady, was truly convinced, she was not only worthy of her good fortune, but of the choicest blessings heaven could bestow on any mortal being on earth.

Lewis did not forget the worthy fisherman; for he settled an annual income on him of two hundred per ann. and Lord Henry added another hundred, and gave him a house not far distant from his own, where he now resides: he has a wife and eleven children, to whom he could before with great difficulty give the common necessities of life: he had been in affluent circumstances, but reduced entirely by misfortune.

The excess of their joy and gratitude to their kind benefactors, the pen is too feeble to express: they daily offer up their most devoted and fervent prayers, invoking the Almighty to pour down his choicest blessings on the benevolent and honorable consorts, who had enabled them to enjoy the comforts of life, and possessed them with a sufficiency to bring up the little ones in the way they should go: they all of them frequently call to see them, and are continually sending them presents; and it gives them unspeakable pleasure to see them so comfortably situated.

Lewis settled a handsome annuity on the faithful steward, who continued his stewardship with him, by the particular request of himself, and the sincere wish of the Count and his amiable lady.

The steward took an opportunity of informing him, that the voice he heard a little before the decease of his honoured father, was no other than that of him-

self, who was concealed behind the arras: he had uttered those words in order to intimidate him, that he might not make any rash vows. He thanked him for his caution, and told him he had frequently pondered on the circumstance, which appeared to him, particularly at that awful time, very mysterious.

Lady Isabella de Marchmont, by the consent and wish of her respectable consort, kept her father's servants, who evidently were so highly delighted when they were informed of the proposal, that they could not ejaculate a sufficiency of joy, nor had they abilities to express their gratitude with that zeal they could have wished: some of them had lived with Count Hainault from his infancy, and the house-keeper, who had lived with the Count his father, before she had attained the age of twenty, is now advanced to upwards of a hundred: he left her a handsome annuity, and likewise a premium to all the rest of his Domestics, who being true and faithful,



he judged them worthy of the same. The good woman, before-mentioned, the house-keeper, though she had a sufficiency to subsist on, yet she could not bear the idea of being separated from the worthy family, therefore by her particular request, the Countess took her into the house, and takes as much care of her, as if she was a lady of quality, and servants are kept on purpose to attend on her.

Lewis and his consort, with his mother and uncle, reside in the house he purchased, and Lady Isabella, wishing to dispose of the house of her late deceased father, Lord Henry, became a purchaser of it, in which he now resides.

They all live in perfect concord, and visit each other alternately, and attract the attention of all who have the honour of their acquaintance. They now are guided out of the path of adversity, by the shield of their all-merciful maker, and thereby conducted into a land of plenty, where peace and happiness await their happy dwelling, which is

attendant on the faithful part of the creation. By the continuance of their faith, and their virtue, and religious principles, that are firmly initiated in them, they now enjoy every possible comfort that can be obtained under the heavens; and what infinitely surpasses all earthly enjoyments, the sweet reflections of a well-spent life; for by being faithful unto the end, they are thereby promised a Crown of Glory. This the reward of the religious and virtuous, who are guided by the shield of faith: they shall be conducted by the assistance of divine grace into the regions of immortal bliss, and enjoy that happiness which surpasseth all understanding. Oh! if the sons of dissipation did but reflect a moment upon the pain they inflict upon the injured offspring of the virtuous, how would their souls shrink into its confined compass, if they would but consider the awful hour of retribution when their devoted heads are nearly levelled with the dust, and their souls ready to burst from its mansion of

clay; it is then that their guilty souls can conjure up imaginary horrors; every nerve upon the rack, and appear as if the shade of the injured stood before them, and exclaimed, Oh! offspring of vice, thy soul will soon meet its reward before a glorious, heavenly, eternal and avenging God.





IN gloomy pomp whilst awful midnight  
reigns,

And wide o'er earth her mournful  
mantle spreads ;

Whilst deep-voiced thunders threaten  
guilty heads,

And rushing torrents drown the  
frighted plains,

And quick glanced light'nings, to my  
dazzled sight,

Betray the double horrors of the night.

A solemn stillness creeps upon my soul,

And all its flowers in deep attention  
die ;

My heart forgets to beat ; my stead-  
fast eye

Catches the flying gleam : the distant  
roll,

Advancing gradual, swells upon my ear

With louder peals, more dreadful  
as more near.

FINIS.

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